

C O P Y

(Berger Document No. 76  
Defense Exhibit No. 68)

I, Benson Bailton Metcalf F r e e m a n, now of H. M. Prison, Leyhill, born at Newbury in the county of Berkshire England on the 6th of October 1908, after having been warned that I will be liable to punishment for making a false statement in lieu of an oath and declare that my statement is true in lieu of an oath, and that my statement is made for submission before the Military Tribunal IV, Palace of Justice, Nuernberg, Germany.

I joined the Waffen SS under the strict understanding that I should not be required to fight or act against my own country but only against Soviet Communism. Not only was this condition most faithfully carried out but in the summer of 1944, until the end of the war, I was transferred to SS Standarte Kurt Eggers, the intelligence Standarte of the SS, in which unit I served as SS Obersturmfuehrer and I was in a key position to observe the recruitment of foreign volunteers etc. and general conduct and policy of the Waffen SS. And I can assure any tribunal that the recruitment of all foreign nationals was strictly voluntary, even more so than the German recruits. All such recruits had to undergo a political examination with regards their beliefs and reliability in the National Socialists' cause against Soviet Communism, and the bigger majority were, as a rule, rejected. It is absolutely absurd to suggest that any pressure was put on any of these recruits, as it would have been most detrimental to the policy of the Waffen SS to have had unreliable members.

Besides the entire spirit and policy of the Waffen SS was a European Force standing against Bolshevism not merely for Germany alone but for the whole of Western Europe. The Bulk of the Waffen SS was employed on the eastern front. But no foreign national was expected to fight against units of his own country.

After this war I was charged with having served in the Waffen SS and considerable stress was placed by the prosecution on the fact that, to have served in such a unit as the Waffen SS, my action and intentions to aid the German war effort was entirely voluntary.

During the entire time I was in the Waffen SS I never saw any cruelties to opponents military or civil, and there were in fact special regulations against any member committing these cowardly unsoldierly and undisciplined acts. And there was, most certainly, no instructions to commit such acts.

During the time I was in Standarte Kurt Eggers I saw SS General Gottlieb Berger several times and General Berger impressed me very much as not only a fine soldier

C O P Y

but as a most humane and understanding man. He was a most sincere opponent of Communism. He viewed the struggle as one of Western Europe against Soviet Bolshevism. He bore no small minded hatred against the English or the Americans, and curiously enough he was particularly against foreign nationals from being allowed to join the Waffen SS who were not 100% sincere in their beliefs.

Further it was General Berger who suppressed the Werwolve policy of the Propaganda Ministry in 1945 saying that it played straight into the Soviet hands. Again it was Berger who was responsible for the order at the end of the war that no SS man was to join the Von Paulus army or in any way assist the Soviets against the Western allies. And it was General Berger who had special information collected with regard to Soviet post war plans during the last few months of the war. This information was flown out of Berlin on the 17th April 1945. At the end of April I was instructed by Sturmbannfuehrer Kriegbaum (of the Standarte Kurt Eggers) from General Berger that it was of the utmost importance that certain sections of the British Military intelligence should be made aware of this information. From the moment I contacted the British I was effectively prevented from contacting the two Generals whose names I had been given and the matter has always been received in complete silence both at my Court Martial and since.

I know that one day the Western European nations will regard General Berger as a hero in their struggle for survival against Soviet Bolshevism and I offered my services as a witness on his behalf entirely voluntary and as part of my duty in the struggle against Soviet Communism.

25th June 1948

(signed:) B.R. Freeman

The above signature of Benson Railton Metcalf Freeman, Number 59 of Leyhill Prison, Gloucestershire, is hereby certified and witnessed by me. Dated this 25th June 1948, at Leyhill Prison, Falfield, Gloucestershire.

John E. Henderson  
Governor  
H.M. Prison, Leyhill.

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